

Declaration of Principles and Demands Adopted By the Jefferson County Farmers' Alliance At Oskaloosa, Oct 9th, 1899

1. That the public land, the heritage of the people, be reserved for actual settlers only, that the title to all the public domain now held by Indians be extinguished as soon as possible, and that the same be opened to actual settlement under the homestead laws,—not another acre to railroads or speculators, and that all the lands now held for speculative purposes shall be taxed at their full value.

2. That measures be taken to prevent aliens from acquiring titles to lands in the United States and Territories of America, and to force titles already acquired by aliens to be relinquished to the National government by purchase and retain said right of eminent domain for the use of actual settlers and citizens of the United States, and that the law be rigidly enforced against all railroad corporations which have not complied with the terms of their contract by which they have received large grants of land.

3. That we demand the rapid payment of the public debt of the United States by operating the mints of the government to their full capacity in coining silver and gold, and tendering the same without discrimination to the public creditors of the nation according to contract, thus saving the interest on the public debt to the industrial masses.

4. That we demand the abolition of the national banks, the substitution of legal tender treasury notes in lieu of national bank notes, issued in sufficient volume to do the business of the country on a cash system; regulating the amount needed on a per capita basis as the business interests of the country expand, and that all the money issued by the government shall be a legal tender in payment of all debts, both public and private.

5. That we demand that Congress shall pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the dealing in futures of all agricultural and mechanical productions, preserving a stringent system of procedure in trial as shall secure prompt conviction, and imposing such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

6. That we demand a graduated income tax, as we believe it is the most equitable system of taxation, placing the burden of government on those who can best afford to pay, instead of laying it on the farmers and mechanics, exempting millionaires, bond holders and corporations.

7. That we demand the strict enforcement of all laws prohibiting the importation of foreign labor under the contract system.

8. That we demand the election of all officers of the National government by a direct vote of the people and that all willful violations of the election laws be declared a felony, and a part of the punishment be the prohibition of the party convicted, from voting in all future elections.

9. That we demand the repeal of all laws that do not bear equally upon capital and labor, the strict enforcement of all laws and the removal of all unjust technicalities, delays and discriminations in the administration

of justice.

10. We demand such a revision of the tariff as will lay the heaviest burdens on the luxuries, and the lightest on the necessities of life, as will reduce the incomes from imports to a strictly revenue basis. That if any dutiable article has been or shall hereafter be made one of combination by those principally interested in its manufacture and sale, for the purpose of shutting out or controlling legitimate competition, and thus establishing a monopoly on such article, be that combination known as trust, pool or combine or by any other name, style or designation whatsoever, the import duty on such article should at once be reduced fifty per centum on rate then existing under tariff schedule, for the first year thereafter and placed on the free list at the expiration thereof if the grievance is not in the meantime abolished; and that retaliatory restrictions be imposed upon the trade of all nations that unjustly discriminate against us or prohibit the products of our country from entering their ports.

11. That we are unqualifiedly in favor of the education of the masses, by a well regulated system of free schools.

12. That we demand that no patents shall be renewed, after the expiration of time for which they were originally patented.

13. We demand legislation both state and national whereby all combinations for monopolizing the products of any industry, or the suppression or hindrance of legitimate competition, be such combination known as trust, pool or combine, or by any other title or designation whatsoever, or if such combination exist without title or designation, and all rebates and discriminations of transportation companies, shall be declared felonies punishable by the severest penalties.

14. We demand the restriction of taxation to the actual requirements of legitimate expenditure; and the enforcement of the law requiring that such taxation be levied equally and equitably on all property without any discrimination in favor of money or money credits.

15. *Resolved*, That every year and every new experience bring to us fresh conviction of the soundness of the policy of prohibition, and that now, when the traffic in intoxicating drinks, can boast more extension, more capital and more political power, than ever before in the history of our country, we are looking for its certain and speedy overthrow; and while as a party we are not organized for the express purpose of prohibition, yet we earnestly entreat all large minded and like minded citizens to act with us for the attainment of this supreme object.

16. *Resolved*, that we will not support any man for congress or for any other official position, of any political party, who will not pledge himself in writing to use his influence for the formation of these demands into laws. Such pledge by a candidate shall not be considered as made in good faith if he has been put in nomination by a party whose platform conflicts with the foregoing enunciated principles. This involves the further proposition that any candidate, of any political party, complying with these conditions, is entitled to our support.

We publish the following communication in accordance with the request of the writer who is a responsible and highly respected citizen of the community in which he resides. After the action of the county Alliance at Oskaloosa on the 9th. of course the *Advocate* cannot sustain this movement at the present time. We believe the action referred to is almost universally satisfactory to the delegates who were present at Oskaloosa, and we think it will be satisfactory to the membership at large when they have an opportunity to see what was done. Now if the Republican party will accept the platform adopted by the Alliance, and its candidates will give the pledge therein required, that is all the Alliance can reasonably require, and we should be a unit in the support of such candidates. The *Advocate* is an Alliance paper, and expects to support Alliance measures; and we should stand by our resolution now until we have cause to depart from it. If existing parties fail however to recognize the rights of the Alliance, then it will be time for them to act. We would not wish to convey the idea that the call we publish is an Alliance call, for it is not so designated, and we do not believe that it is of this character. What we wish to say, is, that as an Alliance paper, in publishing it by request we cannot endorse it at this time. Our future course will be determined by the action of the Republican county Convention. The following is the call.

McLouth, Kas, Oct, 8, '99.

ED. *Advocate*.—You will kindly announce in your valuable paper that a meeting of the farmers and mechanics of Union Twp. has been called to meet at McLouth on Saturday the 12th. at 3 p. m. for the purpose of talking up the matter of calling a mass convention of the county for the purpose of nominating a People's ticket.

OUR PLATFORM

It will be seen, by reference to the report of proceedings by the Jefferson county Farmers' Alliance, that the delegates pledged themselves to support no man for any official position who will not pledge himself in writing to carry out the principles of the platform adopted at that meeting. This carries with it the obligation to support such candidates as do comply with this condition. After the adoption of the declaration of principles, and the resolution involving the condition upon which candidates of existing parties should receive the support of the Alliance, a resolution was offered by Bro. Edwin Snyder, and unanimously adopted to the effect that the Alliance will not undertake to place an Alliance ticket in the field at this time. We failed to obtain the copy of this resolution, but the above is the substance of it.

The platform adopted is a good one, and any party endorsing it should receive the support of every member of the Alliance. The call for the primary in Meriden and Rock Creek precincts to elect delegates to the Republican county Convention is published in this issue of our paper. There is no doubt that a majority of the Republicans of the county are members of the Alliance, and there

is no doubt that a majority of Democrats who are members of the Alliance will support the nominees of the Republican county Convention upon the one condition imposed by the Alliance platform.

We can now see no necessity for more than the one ticket in the field this fall. Let Alliance men rally in force to the primary, and send delegates of their choice to the county Convention who are not only Republicans but Alliance men also in everything which that name implies, and the result cannot be considered a doubtful one.

Alliance men, now is your opportunity to rally to the support of your principles. Will you neglect it, or will you delegate your power to men whose interests are in conflict with yours, and whose energies are devoted to your overthrow?

Since our editorial referring to Bro. Snyder's resolution adopted at the county Alliance was in type, we have received the following from him. We would not willingly do Bro. Snyder any injustice, but this resolution does not sound like the one adopted at Oskaloosa. If we are mistaken in this matter Bro. Snyder can easily correct the mistake by furnishing the original resolution as there presented, and we shall take pleasure in setting him right. We could hardly credit the probability that he would change the sentiment of a resolution after its adoption, but this has certainly been done on our memory is seriously at fault.

Resolved, That we, the delegates of the several sub-alliances of Jefferson county, in county Alliance assembled do emphatically disapprove of any effort to engage in partisan politics, by nominating candidates for political office.

BUSINESS PLAN, RECOMMENDED

To county and Sub-Alliances by the Board of Directors of the Kansas Alliance Exchange Co.

As it is essential to the success of the Alliance that each county alliance act in harmony with each other, and also with the Kansas Alliance Exchange company, it is recommended by the Board of Directors that the county alliance adopt the following or similar plan of business:

1. That each county Alliance organize a county alliance exchange company with a capital stock of..... dollars.

2. That a board of six Directors, one of whom should be the county trustee stockholder of the Kansas Alliance Exchange company, be elected three of whom shall serve for one year; three for two years; and thereafter, three shall be elected each year and shall serve for two years.

3. That the county Alliance Exchange company receive the products of the farmers and ship the same to such places as shall be designated by the state Exchange, when practicable.

4. That the county exchange make purchases for the sub-alliances and when practicable make such purchases through the State Exchange.

5. That the members of the sub-alliances transact their business through their county exchange and their own authorized agencies.

By order of the Board,
H. W. SANDUSKY, Sec.
McCune, Kansas.